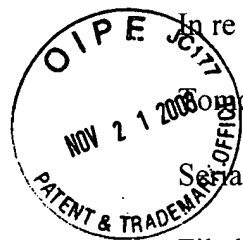


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of : **Confirmation No. 4423**  
Tomohiro OKUMURA et al. : Docket No. 2001-1089A  
Serial No. 09/918,823 : Group Art Unit 2821  
Filed August 1, 2001 : Examiner T. Phan

PLASMA PROCESSING METHOD  
AND APPARATUS THEREOF

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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DEC - 3 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of ☒ the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and/or ☐ the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 and each U.S. patent application listed below is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for each reference previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in prior parent application Serial No. .

1a. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, **or**

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

**and thus no certification and/or fee is required.**

1b. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☒ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

**the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and**

**the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.**

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. ☒ For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

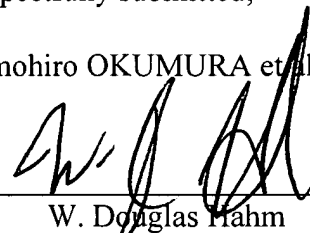
a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

- b. ☐ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
  - c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
  - d. ☒ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
  - e. ☐ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5. ☐ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Tomohiro OKUMURA et al.

By



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November 21, 2003

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: November 21, 2003

ATTY DOCKET NO.  
2001-1089ASERIAL NO.  
09/918,823APPLICANT  
Tomohiro OKUMURA et al.FILING DATE  
August 1, 2001GROUP  
2821

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
OIP 10/17/03 NOV 21 2003 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AJ	2000-091244	03/2000	JP			Abstract	
	AK	09-275093	10/1997	JP			Abstract	
	AL	2000-216136	08/2000	JP			Abstract	
	AM	10-098028	04/1998	JP			Abstract	
	AN	09/148097	06/1997	JP			Abstract	

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AO	
	AP	
	AQ	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED